

Way should there be so much trouble in the selection of a head for the treasury department? There are scores of men in every state who are good enough financially to manage the treasury—men who have had successful experience in the management of mammoth financial operations. A country merchant or a cross-country lawyer would be appointed at the thought of assuming such responsibility, but there are plenty of men who could think as calmly and intelligently in a case involving hundreds of millions as though it dealt with only hundreds of dollars. The operations of the United States treasury are governed by law, and there are enough men who could manage them.

The West Virginia legislature is in a peculiar fix—that is, the Democratic members of that body. The time having come to open and canvass the vote for governor the Democrats had to find some plan for suppressing the canvases, because they knew that if the vote was opened and read it would elect Gen. Gooff, and so the reading of the returns was stopped by a motion to adjourn, after the votes of several counties had been opened and read. The Democrats are much demoralized, and they will be compelled to resort to some desperate measure to prevent the formal declaration of Gooff's election. Meantime the senatorial struggle is becoming more and more mixed. The Democratic kickers declare that they will never vote for Kenna, and the only possible way out of the dilemma seems to be for them to give their votes to the Labor candidate, as they did in the vote for president of the senate.

The Clayton Murder.
The Little Rock Gazette, the chief Democratic paper of the state of Arkansas, does not believe that John M. Clayton was murdered by some irresponsible creature, hired to do the bloody work. It says:

Some poor devil must have been hired to fire the fatal shot, but this is unlikely. The authors of that heinous deed are men who live in that community; who still daily mingle with the fellow-citizens; who are the backbone of respectability; who may have been in the crowd that night, in the grip of the morning fever of the victim of assassination as he lay crumpled with his own blood; who were in the midst of the lawless exchange of gunfire at the station when the corpse was taken away; and, who, in trembling tones, with ash-colored cheeks, and in words worthy of Ibsen, said, "I saw the murderer." The Gazette, it is said, deplores the heinous crime, and deplores the lawless community, and started the cry. They are three very good men. Not one has left. Not one has departed from his daily pursuits. Not one has forsaken his daily duties for one and all know that for the present at least the path of safety is found only in business and in following the rule of public opinion. They are men who look on their heads, and who are not a bit afraid of the law. They are not the kind of men who would shrink at the approach of the representative of the law. They are not the kind of men who would offer their aid in hunting down the assassin.

These comments of a Democratic paper are in strange contrast with the daily reports of some northern Democratic papers, which try to laugh the thing down the wind, and compare it with ordinary murders. The good citizens of Arkansas, however, are impressed with the belief that a bloody crime has been charged to the account of their state, and they feel that it is a blot which should be washed out as only such stains upon a community can be obliterated. They appreciate the fact that their state will be disgraced in the eyes of the civilized world unless the almost-effort possible is brought into operation to ferret out the perpetrator and mete out the most condign punishment. There is no shame in what the Gazette says. It is all very well for people at a distance to pooch the matter, but it is a serious question to every good citizen whether human life shall be held so cheaply, and whether man shall be permitted to play the butcher and walk the streets in safety. And this is not a question into which a politician should enter. It is a question of human life and of common safety to all men, Democrat and Republican alike.

Secretary Fairchild Sued for Damages.
BOSTON, Feb. 7.—Jerome F. Manning, attorney for certain claimants to the Alabama award, has sued Secretary Fairchild for \$50,000 damages alleged to have been sustained by the claimants by the secretary's order that payments should be made by the treasury direct to claimants and not to their attorneys. The case comes up at Cambridge March 4.

Annual Banquet of the Yale Alumni Association.
HARTFORD, Conn., Feb. 7.—The Yale Alumni Association of Hartford held its annual banquet last night. Hon. S. C. Robinson, president. Among the speakers were President Dwight, Mr. C. Stearns, Chas. D. May, Warren, E. C. Stearns and others.

A Devotional Convention.
SOUTH BEND, Ind., Feb. 7.—The great portion of the business section of Wellesboro, a small village at the intersection of the Baltimore and Ohio and Indianapolis, Penn. & Chicago railroads, was burned early yesterday morning. The loss will exceed \$250,000, and only a very small part of it is covered by insurance.

Slight Shock of Earthquake.
CHALMERS, S. C., Feb. 7.—A slight earthquake shock was felt Tuesday night in lower South Carolina. The vibration was caused by a passing train, and was of brief duration.

Twelve Arrests.
INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Feb. 6.—Twelve more arrests were reported today for different parts of the state for violations of the election law last November.

Resigned.
NEW YORK, Feb. 7.—Henry R. Sprague has resigned the presidency of the Columbia Gas and Electric Company, and has been succeeded by J. M. Smith.

No Party Process on "Globe" Underway.
NEW YORK, Feb. 7.—The "Globe" is not a party paper, and it is not a party paper.

FROM WASHINGTON.

A Democratic Senatorial Caucus—Mr. Springer's Omnibus Administration Bill.
PACIFIC RAILROADS SINKING FUND—HOT WATER PRIVILEGES AT HOT SPRINGS, ARK.

The Proposed Samoan Conference at Berlin—Invalid Pensions—Capital Expenses—Congressional.

Democratic Senatorial Caucus.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—The Democratic Senators held another caucus last evening after the adjournment of the Senate for the purpose of discussing an order of business for the remainder of the session. The principal subject of discussion was the Chandler resolution for the investigation of the alleged election outrages in Louisiana. Mr. Gibson is anxious to have this resolution thoroughly discussed, and it is possible disposed of before adjournment. There are only twenty-two working days left before the 4th of March, and quite a number of appropriation bills are still to be disposed of.

All the Senators present at the caucus were of the opinion that it would take a long time to dispose of the subject. All of the Southern Senators wish to be heard in the debate. It was proposed that an effort be made to dispose of the appropriation bills rapidly, and that the consideration of the resolution be postponed until the final days of the session. The caucus adjourned without action, with the understanding that Senator Harris will consult the Republican Senators and learn their views. It is likely the Republicans will have to hold a caucus on order of business soon, as the important measures on the calendar are beginning to jostle each other.

Statement of the Sinking Fund of the Pacific Road.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—The Secretary of the Treasury sent to the Senate yesterday, in response to a resolution agreed to some time ago, a statement of the sinking fund of the Pacific roads under the Treasury act, as follows:

Union Pacific money for Government transportation withheld under act of May 7, 1897, \$4,211,714; total, \$7,733,593. This money was invested in United States bonds and Pacific railroad first-mortgage bonds of a total face value of \$7,249,490. The market value of these bonds February 1, 1898, was \$7,059,140. Increase in the fund by reason of the investment, \$1,674,453.

Mr. Springer's Omnibus Bill.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—The House committee on Territories yesterday authorized a favorable report on Mr. Springer's Omnibus bill for the admission of the Territories of Idaho, Wyoming and Arizona. The bill provides for enabling acts for the admission of these Territories. The full committee was present, and the members expressed their views on the admission of each.

On Motion of Mr. Mansur, a committee of five was appointed to draft a report which would embody the views of the entire committee as nearly as possible, with the exception of the question of the admission of the Territory of Utah, which would be impracticable to admit Utah under the present bill at this session of Congress.

The report will be extensive, and give to the country the benefits of the recent hearings on the bill before the committee.

Hot Water Privileges at Hot Springs, Ark.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—Secretary Vilas has granted two of the three hot-water privileges at Hot Springs, Ark., authorized by the joint resolution of March 24 last—the first to Mr. Wm. Eastman, of Minneapolis, Minn., and the second to Messrs. P. Hayes and F. C. Laird, of Minneapolis, Minn., and the third to Mr. Geo. W. Baxter, of Hot Springs, Ark. In consideration of the privileges granted both parties are to construct first-class brick hotels on their respective premises.

The Samoan Matter in the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—The failure of the Senate committee on foreign relations yesterday to take further action on the Samoan matter as instructed under the Salisbury resolution, caused some comment. It is said that the report of the committee has been rendered by the court of claims.

The French Spoliations Claim.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—Mr. Hampton introduced in the Senate yesterday a proposed amendment to the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill inserting a paragraph for the payment of French spoliations claims aggregating \$83,250, on which judgment has been rendered by the court of claims.

The Continental of the Constitution of the United States.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—Mr. Hiscock, from the committee on the continental of the constitution of the United States, reported to the Senate yesterday a proposed amendment to the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill, inserting a paragraph authorizing favorable reports on twenty-two private pension bills. Among them was a bill granting a pension of \$2,000 a year to the widow of Major-General Warren.

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